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Message Text

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17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /074 W
---------- 031710
R 290630Z SEP 75
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5790
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION NATO
DEPT OF DEFENSE
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4910

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PO, SW
SUBJECT: APPRAISAL OF COUTINHO/CARVALHO VISIT BY STATE SECRETARY THUNBORG

REF: STOCKHOLM 4909 NOTAL

SUMMARY. DE FACTO CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE VISIT OF THE PORTUGUESE AFM LEADERS COUTINHO AND CARVALHO WAS STATE SECRETARY ANDERS THUNBORG. THUNBORG'S CONFIDENTIAL COMMENTS ON THE VISIT ARE SUMMARISED BELOW, AS MADE TO VISITING ASSISTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH DCM, AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS

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AT MFA MEETING AND DURING AFTER-DINNER CONVERWATION. THUNBORG THINKS HIS AFM GUESTS HAVE BARELY BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OF A FREE SOCIETY. THEY LEARNED A LOT BUT STILL DO NOT SEE MUCH APPLICABILITY OF SWEDISH EXPERIENCE TO PORTUGAL. THUNBORG SAYS THE AFM LEADERS REALIZE THE AFM MOVEMENT HAS BEEN SPLIT APART AND NOW STANDS TO PALY A DIMINISHED ROLE AS PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT EMERGES. BUT THE AFM WILL BE WAITING IN THE WINGS IF THE PARTIES FAIL, AND IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR WESTERN EUROPE AND THE US TO HELP THE PARTIES SUCCEED, ESPECIALLY ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT. END SUMMARY

1. ANDERS THUNBORG, MFA SECRETARY OF STATE, TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH AND EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE SPENT MORE THAN 12 HOURS TALKING WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE VISITING DELETATION. THUNBORG SAID THAT HE AND THE OTHER SWEDES HAD TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE SWEDISH APPROACH TO PLLITICAL AND LABOR DEMOCRACY, ESPECIALLY STRESSING HOW "POPULAR MOVEMENTS" BUTTRESSED THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS.
ACCORDING TO THUNBORG, THE STATISTICS ON THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY PRESENTED GY THE VISITORS INDICATED THE TRULY BAD CONDITION OF THE PORGUESE ECONOMY.

2. THUNBORG SAID THE POLITICAL IDEAS OF THE AFM MEMBERS OBVIOUSLY WERE LEARNED IN ANGOLA, GUINEA-BISSAU AND MOZAMBIQUE. CARVALHO HAS BEEN TO CUBA DND THEY HAVE VISITED ROMANIA. BUT, HE SAID, THEY HAVE NEVER REALLY SCRUTINIZED WESTERN POLITICAL PROCESSES. THUNBORG SAID THEY REMINDED HIM OF YOUNG SWEDISH SOCIALIST STUDENTS, STILL THINKING IN THEORETICAL TERMS. HE SAID THEY WERE "IN SEARCH OF AN IDEOLOGY" AND WERE ATTRACTED BY MARXISM.

3. FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS, THUNBORG GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT IF THE AFM HAD COMPLETE POWER, THEY WOULD TRY TO ESTABLISH A KIND OF "DEMOCRACY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL." ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE LIKE TO HAVE MADE THE AFM A POLITICAL PARTY, THUNBORG SAID, THEY REALIZE THAT IT IS TOO LATE TO DO SO BECAUSE THE AFM IS NOW SPLIT. THEREFORE, HE CONTINUED, THEY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES, AND THEY STILL HAVE CLOSE TIES TO OUSTED PRIME
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MINISTER GONCALVES.

4. THUNBORG SAID THAT AFTER THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE A NEW GOVERNMENT TO COMPLETE WORK ON THE CONSTITITUION. ONCE THAT IS DONE, HE SAID, THE AFM REALIZES THAT IT NO LONGER WILL HAVE A DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE "WAITING IN THE WINGS" AND IF THE POLITICAL PARTIES FAIL, THEN THE AFM WOULE EXPECT TO

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ENTER THE PICTURE AGAIN. THEREFORE, THUNBORG SAID, IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT NOW FOR THE WESTERN EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS TO HELP THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL.

5. THUNBORG SAID THE VISITORS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WANTED TO STAY IN NATO "FOR THE PRESENT." (HE SAID THEY DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS.) HE SAID THEY ALSO ALLUDED VAGUELY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AID FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO ASSIST IN THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ANGOLA, THEY SAID THAT IF THERE IS NO UNITY BETWEEN THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THEY WILL PROPOSE A CONFERENCE AMONG THE AFRICAN STATES.

6. THUNBORG SAID THAT HIS GUESTS COMMENTED ON THE EVIDENT CHINESE DISTASTE FOR THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION GENERALLY. THEY ATTRIBUTE THIS POSITION PRIMARILY TO A CHINESE IDEA THAT CUNHAL PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND IS A COMPLETE STOOGE OF THE SOVIETS.

7. MFA OFFICIALS TELL US THE AFM VISIT HAS BEEN CLOSELY WATCHED BY EAST EUROPEAN MISSIONS, PARTICULARLY BY THE ROMANIANS, EAST GERMANS AND POLES WHO WERE THE FIRST IN LINE FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFINGS.
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